

## Mission Field.

[From S. P. G. Notes for November.]

In the *Children of the Church*, which is to be the Society's third monthly magazine from January next, we hope papers of great interest will be found.

The object of the magazine is educational, in the sense of interesting children in missionary work by making them realise something of the lives of other races of people than themselves. To this end it is intended to have papers on the manners, customs, and religions and of the people. Legends and stories, and papers on natural history, will also be included. To show the greatness and unity of the Church's work, there will be papers on early saints and modern heroes. Accounts of Colonial life, items of news, letters for children from our Mission Schools, written by boys and girls, are also to be included, as well as the monthly competition, with occasional prizes. A special point will be made of the illustrations. There will be a monthly letter from the Editor, who also corresponds with the children.

By the progress of the war in the East, the chief centre of anxiety is shifted from Corea to Northern China. From Chfoo, Peking, Tientsin, and the other Mission stations in North China we shall look eagerly for news. Our brethren there will rely on our prayers, and we must not fail them. Bishop Scott, who came to England before the troubles began, is intending to return to Peking immediately.

PROFOUND regret will be evoked by the not unexpected announcement of Bishop Knight Bruce's resignation of the See of Mashonaland. It is a grievous disappointment to him; but there was practically no other course possible. To return would have been simply fatal. Eight years ago he was consecrated Bishop of Bloemfontein. Mashonaland was then unknown, but on his reaching Africa the Bishop laid before the Society proposals with a view to the evangelisation of the tribes between Griqualand West (part of the Bloemfontein Diocese) and the Zambesi. The Society encouraged him, and voted £1,000, half of which was to enable him to bear the cost of exploring in Mashonaland. This famous journey took up eight months of the year 1888, and is described in the *Mission Field* for the months July to December, 1889. He went through Matabeleland and Mashonaland, right on to Zumbo on the Zambesi, and then returned to Bloemfontein, encountering skilfully and bravely difficulties and dangers of all kinds. Except Mr. Selous, he was probably the first Englishman to tread the soil of Mashonaland.

In 1889 the British Protectorate was established, and the British South Africa Company formed. In 1891 the South African Provincial Synod formed Mashonaland and the adjacent regions into a diocese. The

See was (and is) unendowed, and without an income; but Bishop Knight Bruce was asked to accept it, and he did. During a few months the Bishop walked 1,300 miles in Mashonaland and Manicaland, visiting forty-five towns and villages and winning the goodwill of the natives. Then there came last year the war, when the Bishop showed himself on neither side of hostilities, but on both sides in the care of the wounded, and ministrations for all in his diocese to whatever race they belonged. When the war was over it was found at what cost to his own health he had done all this. He was at once ordered home, and (as was feared would be the case) has now been compelled to abandon all hope of returning to Mashonaland.

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My mind was ruffled with small cares to-day,  
And I said pettish words, and did not keep  
Long-suffering patience well; and now how deep  
My trouble for this sin!  
—Henry Septimus Sutton.



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S. P. C. K.

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LONDON: Northumberland Avenue, W.C., 43 Queen Victoria st.  
E. C.; NEW YORK: D. APPLETON & Co.